

NARRATIVE
OF THE
CONQUEST OF FINLAND

BY
THE RUSSIANS

IN THE YEARS 1808-9.

FROM AN UNPUBLISHED WORK BY A RUSSIAN OFFICER OF RANK.

EDITED BY
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MADRAS ENGINEERS.

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THE following pages were given to me by the Author, a Russian officer of rank, since deceased. The work was never published, only 250 copies having been printed for distribution among the Author's friends.

W. M.

June 1854.

TO THE
HON. MOUNTSTUART ELPHINSTONE

These Pages are Inscribed,
AS A TRIBUTE OF RESPECT TO HIS PUBLIC CHARACTER
AND A GRATEFUL ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF
MANY ACTS
OF PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP.

EDITOR'S PREFACE.

So long a period of time has elapsed since the events recorded in these pages took place, that it may be necessary to say a few words on the causes which brought them about.

It will be remembered that, in the year 1807, Russia was obliged to sign the Treaty of Tilsit; and though the campaign had been in its latter part disastrous, the good fortune of the Russian empire obtained terms that could hardly have been looked for. By the secret articles of this treaty (a copy of which was obtained by the British Government, and published several years after), it was agreed that Russia should take possession of Finland, and that Denmark should be